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ECLAC SESSIONAL AD HOC COMMITTEE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

REPORT ON THE OPEN-ENDED MEETING OF THE PRESIDING OFFICERS OF THE ECLAC SESSIONAL AD HOC COMMITTEE (SANTIAGO, CHILE, 14-15 DECEMBER 1998)

99-3-137

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ABSTRACT

The open-ended meeting of the Presiding Officers of the sessional Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean was held on 14 and 15 December 1998 in Santiago, Chile, under the chairmanship of Panama. The meeting was attended by delegates from 20 member States of the Commission and a number of representatives of international and non-governmental organizations.

The main objective of the meeting was the review and appraisal of the implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. The outcome of the meeting will constitute the input of the Latin American and Caribbean region to the global process of review and appraisal of the Programme of Action (informally known as "ICPD+5") which will culminate in the special session of the General Assembly of the United Nations to be held from 30 June to 2 July 1999.

The report adopted at the meeting will be presented by Panama, as Chairperson of the sessional Ad Hoc Committee, to the Hague Forum on population and development (8-12 February 1999) and to the Commission on Population and Development of the United Nations (22-30 March 1999) in its capacity as preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly.

The document, entitled "Latin America and the Caribbean: review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development", presents in its first chapter a brief distinction of recent socio-economic and demographic developments in the region and draws attention to constraints and opportunities for the implementation of the Programme of Action. The second chapter analyses the progress made in fulfilling the commitments entered into at the Conference, and describes certain difficulties that have been encountered; and the third describes priority areas for future action.

Given the urgency of initiating or strengthening, as soon as possible, actions towards full realization of the goals adopted by the countries of the region at the Conference and to ensure appropriate fulfilment of the recommendations contained in the Programme of Action and the Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development, the delegations adopted a resolution in which they:

- expressed their appreciation for the work carried out by CELADE;
- requested the Chairperson to submit the report to the Hague Forum and to the Commission on Population and Development;
- thanked the United Nations Population Fund for its contribution to the organization and holding of the meeting;
- urged that efforts should be redoubled in the following areas: integration and coordination of population and development activities; equal opportunities and gender equity; reproductive and sexual health; maternal and infant mortality; adolescents; older persons; international migration; information sources; and training;

- instructed CELADE and ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean to give priority to the following activities: censuses, youth, ageing, international migration, training, geographical distribution of the population, and follow-up to the Programme of Action through the design of appropriate systems;
- recommended that the international community should strengthen its support for disaster preparedness and reconstruction activities, the need for which was reflected in the critical situation in Central America and the Caribbean as a result of the destruction caused by recent natural disasters.
- requested the Executive Secretary of ECLAC to convene another open-ended meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Committee for the purpose of analysing the outcomes and implications for the region of the special session of the General Assembly.

A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Venue and date of the meeting

1. The open-ended meeting of the Presiding Officers of the ECLAC sessional Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development was held on 14 and 15 December 1998 in Santiago, Chile, pursuant to the provisions of ECLAC resolution 572(XXVII) and with the participation of those countries which had expressed the desire to be present.

Attendance

2. The officers presiding over the meeting were as follows:

Chairperson:	Panama
Vice-Chairmen:	Argentina
	Haiti
	Jamaica
Rapporteur:	Peru

3. A total of 37 delegates from 20 member States of ECLAC took part:

Antigua and Barbuda,
Argentina,
Bahamas,
Bolivia,
Brazil,
Chile,
Dominican Republic,
Ecuador,
El Salvador,
Spain,
Guatemala,
Haiti,
Jamaica,
Mexico,
Nicaragua,
Panama,
Paraguay,
Peru,
Saint Kitts and Nevis,
Venezuela.

4. The following representatives of the United Nations Population Fund also took part: the Director of the Latin America and the Caribbean Division, the Director of the Technical Support Team for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Director for Peru, Chile and Paraguay, and other experts from the Technical Support Team.

5. The meeting was also attended by representatives of the Caribbean Community (Caricom) and of ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean.

6. The following non-governmental organizations were also represented: Barbados Family Planning Association, Latin American and Caribbean Women's Health Network (Chile), Foro Abierto de Salud y Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos (Chile), Corporación de Salud y Políticas Sociales (Chile), Movimiento Manuela Ramos (Peru), Caribbean Association for Feminist Research and Action (CAFRA), Family Planning Association of Trinidad and Tobago.

7. The sixty participants are listed in Annex 1.

B. AGENDA

8. The following agenda was adopted:

    1. Adoption of the agenda

    2. Report of the Chairperson

    3. Draft report on review and appraisal of the implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

    4. Priorities for future action

    5. Other matters

    6. Conclusions

9. The meetings were held according to the schedule contained in Annex 2.

C. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Opening session

10. The opening session was addressed by:

Mr. José Antonio Ocampo, Executive Secretary of ECLAC;
Ms. Markela Castro, of Panama, speaking as Chairperson of the sessional Ad Hoc Committee;
Ms. Marisela Padrón, Director of the Latin America and the Caribbean Division of the United Nations Population Fund; and
Mr. Daniel Blanchard, Director of CELADE.

11. Each of the speakers emphasized the importance of assessing the implementation of the recommendations of major international conferences such as the International Conference on Population and Development, held in 1994 in Cairo, at which the Programme of Action was adopted.

12. The speakers also reviewed regional and subregional activities conducted in relation to the Cairo conference, both beforehand and afterwards. Particular emphasis was placed on the process which had led so many countries to attend the meeting of the Presiding Officers, in accordance with the outcome of the second meeting of the sessional Ad Hoc Committee in Oranjestad, Aruba (May 1998).

13. The speakers also drew attention to the need to exchange experiences regarding problems encountered and successes achieved, as well as the importance of the Programme of Action and the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development for programmes and policies to eradicate poverty and achieve full equality of opportunities and empowerment of women.

14. Lastly, reference was made to the document prepared by CELADE for consideration at the meeting. The speakers agreed that the quality of its contents and its concise presentation would make it and excellent basis for fruitful deliberations.

Working meetings

"Latin America and the Caribbean: review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development"

15. The main purpose of the meeting was to consider the draft report entitled "Latin America and the Caribbean: review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development", prepared by CELADE.

16. The analysis of the first two chapters was preceded by a presentation given by CELADE. The first chapter contains a brief description of recent socio-economic and demographic developments in the region and draws attention to limitations and opportunities for the implementation of the Programme

of Action. The second chapter analyses the progress made, and some of the obstacles faced, in complying with the commitments undertaken at the Cairo conference.

17. Several delegations commended the contents of the document and particularly the timely inclusion of a number of issues brought up by the countries of the Caribbean at their subregional meeting held three weeks earlier, although it caused a delay in sending out the documentation.

18. It was agreed that comments and suggested changes should be communicated to the secretariat for inclusion in the document, particularly those concerning specific matters of interest to each country. The secretariat was requested to introduce the suggestions received, in coordination with the Chairperson of the sessional Ad Hoc Committee; at the same time, it was recognized that the summary nature of the two chapters meant that specific experiences could not be described in detail.

Priorities for future action

19. The subject of priorities for future action was introduced by the Chairperson of the meeting, who emphasized their importance and the need to agree on a consensus text in the course of the meeting.

20. The third and last chapter identifies the following priority areas for action to move towards the full realization of the objectives contained in the Programme of Action:

- mainstreaming population issues in strategies, policies and programmes for social and economic development, with particular emphasis on the needs of the poorest groups;
- empowering women for genuine participation in decision-making and the promotion of the sociocultural changes needed for the achievement of gender equity;
- exercise of the reproductive and sexual rights of couples and individuals —within the framework of responsibilities shared by women and men— so that they enjoy the best possible health throughout their lifetimes;
- effective collaboration between government bodies, non-governmental organizations, local community groups and the private sector for the design, execution, monitoring and appraisal of population and development programmes;
- international cooperation to mobilize financial, human and technical assistance resources in the area of population and development and to strengthen horizontal cooperation;
- creation of suitable participatory mechanisms for appropriate monitoring of progress in the fulfilment of the objectives of the Programme of Action.

21. While the delegations expressed agreement with the proposed priority areas for action, they made a number of suggestions for enriching the contents of the chapter.

Other matters and conclusions

22. Given the urgency of initiating or strengthening, as soon as possible, actions towards full realization of the goals adopted by the countries of the region at the Conference and to ensure appropriate fulfilment of the recommendations contained in the Programme of Action and the Regional Plan of

Action on Population and Development, the delegations adopted a resolution (see Annex 3) in which they:

- expressed their appreciation for the work carried out by CELADE;
- requested the Chairperson to submit the report to the Hague Forum and to the Commission on Population and Development;
- thanked the United Nations Population Fund for its contribution to the organization and holding of the meeting;
- urged that efforts should be redoubled in the following areas: integration and coordination of population and development activities; equal opportunities and gender equity; reproductive and sexual health; maternal and infant mortality; adolescents; older persons; international migration; information sources; and training;
- instructed CELADE and ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean to give priority to the following activities: censuses, youth, ageing, international migration, training, geographical distribution of the population, and follow-up to the Programme of Action through the design of appropriate systems;
- recommended that the international community should strengthen its support for disaster preparedness and reconstruction activities, the need for which was reflected in the critical situation in Central America and the Caribbean as a result of the destruction caused by recent natural disasters
- requested the Executive Secretary of ECLAC to convene another open-ended meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Committee for the purpose of analysing the outcomes and implications for the region of the special session of the General Assembly.

23. At their last working session, delegations re-examined the new texts of the resolution and of chapter 3 of the report, following the incorporation of the recommendations and suggested changes. The delegation of Argentina, which was unable to remain until the end of the meeting, submitted a declaration (contained in Annex 4) in which it expressed the position and reservations of the Argentine Republic regarding the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.

Closing session

24. Both the Director of the Latin America and the Caribbean Division of the United Nations Population Fund and the Director of CELADE expressed their satisfaction at the outcome of the meeting, commending the high quality of the deliberations and of the documentation presented.

25. Both speakers said that this demonstrated the importance of the sessional Ad Hoc Committee as the intergovernmental mechanism for follow-up of the recommendations contained in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Regional Plan of Action. For that reason, and in accordance with the resolution adopted by the delegations, serious consideration should be given to holding a further meeting of the ECLAC sessional Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development. It was also pointed out that the holding of another meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Committee would require the design of a system of indicators to ensure appropriate monitoring of the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Programme of Action.

26. Lastly, one delegation thanked and congratulated the Chairperson, CELADE and the United Nations Population Fund for the successful organization of the meeting and the high quality of the documentation. A representative of the non-governmental organizations thanked the Chairperson and the secretariat for having made it possible for them to attend and to express their comments and suggestions.

Annex 1

OPEN-ENDED MEETING OF THE PRESIDING OFFICERS OF THE SESSIONAL AD HOC COMMITTEE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Santiago, Chile, 14-15 December 1998

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES

Member States of the Commission
Estados Miembros de la Comisión

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
ANTIGUA Y BARBUDA

Delegation member/Miembro de la delegación: Lake Lauchland, Senior Statistician, Census Survey, Statistics Division

ARGENTINA

Representative/Representante: Aldo Omar Carreras, Subsecretario de Población, Ministerio del Interior

Delegation members/Miembros de la delegación: María del Carmen Simone, Asesora, Subsecretaría de Población; Leandro Reboiras, Asistente Técnico, Subsecretaría de Población

BAHAMAS

Representative/Representante: Dr. Ronald Knowles, Minister of Health

Delegation members/Miembros de la delegación: Kelsie Dorsett, Deputy Director, Department of Statistics, Ministry of Economic Development; Philabertha Carter, Coordinator National Family Planning and Maternal Health Programmes, Ministry of Health

BOLIVIA

Representative/Representante: María del Carmen Basaure, Jefe, Unidad de Políticas de Población, Ministerio de Desarrollo Sostenible.

Delegation member/Miembro de la delegación: Franklin García, Investigador Población - Salud, Ministerio de Desarrollo Sostenible

BRAZIL
BRASIL

Representative/Representante: Carlos Pérez, Second Secretary, Embassy of Brazil in Chile, ECLAC Liaison Officer

Delegation member/Miembro de la delegación: Sonia Corréa, Member of the National Commission for Population and Development

CHILE

Representative/Representante: Verónica Silva, Jefe División Social, Ministerio de Planificación y Cooperación

Delegation members/Miembros de la delegación: Teresa Rodríguez, Jefa Relaciones Internacionales y Cooperación, Servicio Nacional de la Mujer; Jorge Norambuena, Subdirector Dimulti; Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores; Boris Chacón, Sectorialista, Ministerio de Planificación; Consuelo Cortés, Jefe, Departamento de Estudios Sociales, Ministerio de Planificación; Carlos Marín, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Tercer Secretario

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA

Representative/Representante: Clarissa León de Fernández, Coordinadora, Oficina Seguimiento Cumbres Mundiales

Delegation member/Miembro de la delegación: Teresita González, Técnico Departamento de Planificación Social

ECUADOR

Representative/Representante: Luis Rivadeneira, Oficina de Planificación de la Presidencia de la República

Delegation member/Miembro de la delegación: Nelson Torres, Segundo Secretario, Embajada de Ecuador en Chile

EL SALVADOR

Delegation member/Miembro de la delegación: José Roberto Aguilar, Asesor, Secretaría Nacional de la Familia

SPAIN
ESPAÑA

Representative/Representante: Ricardo Mor, Primer Secretario de la Embajada de España

GUATEMALA

Delegation member/Miembro de la delegación: Vinicio Mora, Consultor, Cooperación Internacional, Secretaría de Planificación y Programación

HAITI
HAITÍ

Representative/Representante: Andre Guy, Ambassador of Haiti in Chile

JAMAICA

Delegation member/Miembro de la delegación: Easton Williams, Manager, Population Secretariat

MEXICO
MÉXICO

Representative/Representante: Rodolfo Tuirán, Secretario General, Consejo Nacional de Población (CONAPO)

NICARAGUA

Representative/Representante: Polidecto Correa, Director de Políticas Sociales, Secretaría de Acción Social

PANAMA
PANAMÁ

Representative/Representante: Markela Castro, Coordinadora del Comité Técnico de Población de la Secretaría Técnica del Gabinete Social

PARAGUAY

Delegation members/Miembros de la delegación: Oscar Barrios Leiva, Técnico, Dirección General de Estadísticas y Censos; Zulma Sosa Portillo, Técnica del Departamento de Censos, Juan Miguel González, Consejero de la Embajada del Paraguay en Chile

PERU
PERÚ

Representative/Representante: Eduardo Yong Motta, Asesor de la Presidencia de la República-Presidente Comisión Nacional de Población

Delegation member/Miembro de la delegación: Luz Marina Vera, Gerenta Desarrollo Humano (PROMUDEH)

ST. KITTS AND NEVIS
ST. KITTS Y NEVIS

Representative/Representante: Rosalyn Hazelle, Director of Women's Affairs, Ministry of Women's Affairs

VENEZUELA

Representative/Representante: Norma Ramones, Directora, Dirección General Sectorial de Políticas Sociales de CORDIPLAN

Delegation member/Miembro de la delegación: Coilberto Jaimes, Agregado para Asuntos Políticos

United Nations bodies
Organismos de las Naciones Unidas

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)/Fondo de Población de las Naciones Unidas (FNUAP)

- Marisela Padrón, Director of the Latin American and Caribbean Division
- Joop Alberts, Director, Technical Support Team
- Rogelio Fernández Castilla, Director for Peru, Chile and Paraguay, UNFPA
- Belkys Mones, Gender and Population Advisor, UNFPA

Intergovernmental organizations
Organismos Intergubernamentales

GUYANA

Caribbean Community/Comunidad del Caribe (CARICOM) Secretariat

- Osmond Gordon, Programme Manager (Statistics)

Non-governmental organizations
Organismos no gubernamentales

BARBADOS

George Griffith, Executive Director, Barbados Family Planning Association

CHILE

María Isabel Matamala, Coordinadora Adjunta, Red de Salud de las Mujeres Latinoamericanas y del Caribe;
Josefina Hurtado, Coordinadora Nacional, Foro Abierto de Salud y Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos;
Loreto Bravo, Coordinadora Área Salud y Género, Coorporación de Salud y Políticas Sociales (CORSAPS)

PERU
PERÚ

Susana Galdos, Movimiento Manuela Ramos

ST. LUCIA
SANTA LUCÍA

Josephine Gregg, President, Youth Advocacy Movement c/o St. Lucia Planned Parenthood Association

ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES
SAN VICENTE Y LAS GRANADINAS

Nelcia Robinson, Coordinator, Caribbean Association for Feminist Research and Action (CAFRA)

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
TRINIDAD Y TABAGO

Jacqueline Sharpe, Vice President, Family Planning Association

Secretariat
Secretaría

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)/ Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (CEPAL)

José Antonio Ocampo, Executive Secretary
Reynaldo Bajraj, Deputy Executive Secretary
Daniel S. Blanchard, Director, Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) - Population Division (ECLAC)
Juan Chackiel, Chief, Demography Area, CELADE
Dirk Jaspers Faijer, Chief, Area for Information and Training on Population in Latin America, Technical Secretary of the sessional Ad Hoc Committee
Miguel Villa, Chief, Population and Development Area
Rolando Sánchez, Consultant to the office of the Director, CELADE
Juan Carlos González, Area for Information and Training on Population in Latin America
Jorge Rodríguez, Population and Development Area

ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean/Sede Subregional de la CEPAL para el Caribe

- Asha Kambon, Social Affairs Officer, ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, Port-of-Spain

Annex 2

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN DEMOGRAPHIC CENTRE (CELADE)

Santiago, 14-15 December 1998

OPEN-ENDED MEETING OF THE PRESIDING OFFICERS OF THE ECLAC SESSIONAL AD HOC COMMITTEE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

MONDAY 14 DECEMBER

09:00-09:30	REGISTRY
09:30-10:00	OPENING SESSION
	Words of welcome by Mr. José Antonio Ocampo, Executive Secretary of ECLAC
	Markela Castro, President of the Ad Hoc Committee
	Marisela Padrón, Director of the Division for Latin America and the Caribbean of the UNFPA
	Daniel Blanchard, Director of CELADE
10:00-10:30	Coffee
10:30-13:00	1. Adoption of the agenda
	2. Report of the Chairman
	3. Draft report on review and appraisal of the implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development
14:30-16:00	4. Priorities for future action
16:00-16:15	Coffee
16:15-17:30	4. Priorities for future action
18:00	Cocktail offered by the Director of CELADE

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN DEMOGRAPHIC CENTRE (CELADE)

Santiago, 14-15 December 1998

OPEN-ENDED MEETING OF THE PRESIDING OFFICERS OF THE ECLAC SESSIONAL AD HOC COMMITTEE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

TUESDAY 15 DECEMBER

09:30-10:45	4. Priorities for future action
10:45-11:15	Coffee
11:15-13:00	4. Priorities for future action
	5. Other matters
16:00-16:30	Coffee
16:30-17:30	6. Conclusions
	Closing session

Annex 3

RESOLUTION OF THE OPEN-ENDED MEETING OF THE PRESIDING OFFICERS OF THE SESSIONAL AD HOC COMMITTEE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

(Santiago, Chile, 14-15 December 1998)

PRIORITIES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The sessional Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling the Latin American and Caribbean Consensus on Population and Development issued in Mexico City in 1993, the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,

Aware of the progress made and the difficulties encountered, including the lack of sufficient human and financial resources, in relation to the achievement of the objectives and goals of population and development programmes, including poverty eradication,

Bearing in mind resolution 572(XXVII) as adopted by the Commission in Aruba in May 1998, in which it entrusted CELADE, in consultation with the United Nations Population Fund, with the task of drafting a regional report so that at the present meeting of the sessional Ad Hoc Committee the Presiding Officers could arrive at a regional consensus to be presented at the Hague Forum on population and development and the thirty-second session of the Commission on Population and Development of the United Nations in its capacity as a preparatory body for the special session of the General Assembly for reviewing and appraising the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,

1. Expresses its appreciation to CELADE for having drafted, with the support of the United Nations Population Fund, the draft report entitled "Review and appraisal of the implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development";

2. Requests CELADE, in coordination with the Chairperson of the sessional Ad Hoc Committee and in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund, to prepare the final version of the above-mentioned report after having incorporated the changes agreed upon by the member countries;

3. Delegates to the Chairperson of the sessional Ad Hoc Committee the task of submitting the report to the Hague Forum and to the Commission on Population and Development of the United Nations at its thirty-second session;

4. Thanks the United Nations Population Fund for its substantive contribution to the preparation of the working document and for the technical and financial support provided to a number of delegations in order to enable them to attend the present meeting;

5. Urges the member countries to redouble their efforts, with the support of the Population Fund and other bodies of the United Nations system, in the following areas even during periods when they are experiencing financial constraints and to ensure that information on the progress achieved is widely disseminated:

(i) Integration and coordination: To promote the inclusion of demographic criteria and considerations in development plans, policies and programmes and conduct exercises to assess the impact of public policies on the population; to consolidate intersectoral and inter-agency coordination and promote coordination among international cooperation agencies in this area;

(ii) Gender equity and equal opportunities: To establish mechanisms to ensure women's participation and equitable representation at all levels of decision making of the political process and public life in each community and society and to enable women to articulate their concerns and needs; and to mainstream a gender perspective in public policies, with the partnership of civil society bodies, with particular emphasis on the involvement of women's organizations, with a view to promoting equal opportunities and gender equity; it is also recommended that existing mechanisms be evaluated, strengthened where necessary or, in the event that such mechanisms do not yet exist, that they be created;

(iii) Reproductive and sexual health: Within the framework of integrated health care for all, to ensure that suitable attention is accorded to reproductive and sexual health within the sphere of public policy, especially with regard to the reform of the health sector, in order to ensure that an integrated, participatory and equitable approach is adopted that will promote the expansion of health care coverage and an ongoing improvement in the quality of health services and will ensure that reproductive and sexual rights are fully upheld, while assigning the highest priority to the poorest sectors and to the social and ethnic groups that are still disadvantaged in terms of access to such services; and to step up efforts for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases, with particular emphasis on HIV/AIDS, especially at the primary health care level;

(iv) Maternal and infant mortality: Also within the framework of full health care for all and as part of an integrated approach to reproductive health, to assign the highest priority to action aimed at reducing maternal and infant mortality, taking into consideration the multiplicity of causative factors;

(v) Adolescents: To assign a high priority to the development of integrated policies and programmes for adolescents that will help uphold the exercise of their rights, permit instruction to be provided on family life, human relationships, and reproductive and sexual health —with particular attention to the responsibilities of males— within a context that will prevent exposure to mental and physical health hazards —including sexually-transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS— and

promote responsible lifestyles that will foster self-esteem, personal values and human relationships, with special emphasis on the prevention of unwanted pregnancies;

(vi) Older persons: To accord due attention to older adults, especially with respect to their health, social security and emotional requirements;

(vii) International migration: To improve knowledge of the repercussions of international migratory flows in order to improve the regulatory frameworks governing them and seek to harmonize them with national development objectives;

(viii) Information sources: To provide significant and sustained support for activities designed to ensure the availability of basic information, in particular national population and housing censuses, which should provide the necessary data to permit suitable follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development;

(ix) Training: To support efforts to intensify human resources development activities at the national and subnational levels with a view to supporting the implementation of activities in the aforementioned areas.

6. Instructs CELADE and the subregional headquarters for the Caribbean of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund and other relevant national and international organizations, to give priority to the following activities within the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development:

(i) Censuses: As a means of upgrading sources of basic data for the development process, it is particularly important to continue to support the countries in their preparations for the 2000 census round and to increase their efforts to work with international financial and development institutions in exploring new ways of obtaining resources for that purpose in a timely manner;

(ii) Youth: To prepare studies to attain a fuller understanding of the problems of young people (training, employment, reproductive health, recreation), explicitly incorporating their viewpoints, and to draft and distribute the document on population, youth and development in a timely manner, in accordance with the request to CELADE contained in ECLAC resolution 572(XXVII);

(iii) Ageing: In the light of the decision taken by the United Nations to declare 1999 the International Year of Older Persons, to organize a Latin American and Caribbean Conference on older persons at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean no later than the third quarter of 1999 for the purpose of analysing the demographic aspects of the rapid ageing of the population and its social and economic implications, and to recommend public policies to the member States;

(iv) International migration: To increase their efforts to identify and measure more adequately the trends, directions and characteristics of international migration, paying special attention to respect for the human rights of the migrants; to support the member States both in the formulation of national policies on international migration and in their joint efforts to regulate, improve and facilitate this process, bearing in mind the activities of the Regional Advisory Group

on Migration, known as the "Puebla Group", and to promote similar initiatives in other subregions;

(v) Training: To intensify training activities, both within the context of the Intensive Regional Course on Demographic Analysis for Development and in the form of workshops on the use of REDATAM, on reproductive health, and on other specific subjects, giving consideration to the participation of academic institutions and non-government organizations specialized in those topics;

(vi) Geographical distribution of the population: To carry out research to deepen understanding of the trends and characteristics of internal migration and the geographical distribution of the population, in order to provide support and orientation for the formulation of public policy within the context of decentralized management;

(vii) Follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development: To request CELADE to collaborate with the countries of the region to design systems to monitor progress in complying with the agreements adopted at international conferences, with special reference to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, using specific indicators agreed upon with the countries of the region and relevant to their particular conditions;

7. Recommends that, given the vulnerability of the countries of the region to periodic natural disasters (such as hurricanes, earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, drought and flooding) reflected in the critical situation in Central America and the Caribbean following the destruction caused by recent natural disasters, international organizations and bilateral cooperation agencies should strengthen their support for disaster preparedness and reconstruction activities;

8. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean that he should convene another open-ended meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Committee for the purpose of analysing the outcomes and implications for the region of the special session of the General Assembly to be held in 1999.

Annex 4

Argentine Republic
Ministry of the Interior

Position and reservations of the Argentine Republic for the open-ended meeting of the Presiding Officers of the sessional Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean on the *review and appraisal of the implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development*

Santiago, Chile, 14-15 December 1998

With reference to the draft report entitled "Latin America and the Caribbean: review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development", and in accordance with the terms of its Constitution and the rules and standards of international law, the delegation of the Argentine Republic reaffirms *inter alia* the following principles enshrined in the Constitution of Argentina: the inviolability of human life, the protection of children from the moment of conception, freedom of conscience and religion, the protection of the family as the basic unit of society, the primary right of parents to bring up their children, and the principle of respect for sovereignty.

The Government of Argentina therefore wishes to place the following on record:

1. The population policy of the Argentine Republic is enshrined in its Constitution, which embodies both the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Declaration on the Rights of the Child and its reservations.

2. The Government of Argentina reaffirms the principles which it expressed at the appropriate time during the International Conference on Population and Development and, in particular, as the Government of one of the States of the Latin American region, it is convinced that the population problems of Latin America are due, not to the numbers of its inhabitants, but to the difficulty of access to the benefits of development and to the generation and redistribution of wealth. The modernization of economic structures which has been carried out in the countries of the region has undeniably produced many benefits, but it must be recognized that in many cases it has also contributed to the worsening situation of the most vulnerable sectors of the population. Efforts in the sphere of international cooperation should be oriented towards helping these sectors.

3. As part of the globalization process in which we are currently involved, Argentina believes that the cultural diversity of Latin America as a region can make a positive contribution to the worldwide situation. Almost five years after the International Conference on Population and Development, Argentina recognizes the long-lasting diversity of the countries of the region.

4. The words "the emergence of new institutional models designed to integrate sociodemographic variables into development policies and programmes", on page 9 of the aforementioned draft report, are not to be interpreted as calling for a "monocultural" structure; on the contrary, policies and programmes should be developed in such a way as to reinforce the cultural identity of each of the countries of the region, as a contribution to the global culture.

5. The Argentine Republic considers that the globalization of socio-economic relations cannot ignore different cultures within the region; on the contrary, the social, ethical and religious contribution of those cultures to the international community should be encouraged, and they should not be weakened by population planning which would be in contradiction with the varied world views they represent.

6. The Government of Argentina considers that in the sphere of health, discussion of population issues should not be limited to the issue referred to as "reproductive health" in the working documents. Argentina believes that the concept of comprehensive health care is the most important factor for safe motherhood, and that a greater percentage of international cooperation funds for population activities in the region should be devoted to basic medicines, enabling health care to be provided to the population throughout all the stages in a person's life cycle.

7. Population and development goals should be a matter for the competence and sovereignty of each country, in accordance with the fundamental principles and orientation of national policies, and guided by respect for human dignity and free and responsible decision-making by individuals.

8. Stability in world population should not be sought through measures decided upon by Governments or supranational bodies or institutions, contradicting the freedom of decision of individuals and families and ignoring the religious, ethical and cultural values of local communities.

9. Family planning should be based on freedom of decision and respect for the human rights of spouses, without State interference, particularly in the education and health spheres.

10. Demographic growth is not necessarily the result of underdevelopment or the cause of poverty and food insecurity. Policies to promote food security should be based on the education and development of the human person and, fundamentally, on social justice at both local and international levels.

11. Particular emphasis should be placed on the education and health of the population, within a framework of comprehensive health care. In particular, women's health needs should be considered comprehensively, taking into account the various stages in their lives: infancy, childhood, adolescence, adulthood, menopause and the post-menopausal period. To emphasize only the childbearing years would be to neglect factors affecting women's overall health, which vary from one country to another in the region.

12. Reproductive health services should be provided with respect for individual freedom of decision and taking into account the ethical values to which they adhere. The Argentine Republic reaffirms the principle of the primary responsibility of parents for issues concerning the health and upbringing of their minor children, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention on

the Rights of the Child. Under no circumstances should reproductive health services include abortion, surgical or chemical, either as a service per se or as a birth control method.

13. The capacity of women to make decisions in the various spheres of life depends, not on systematic reduction of fertility, but on promoting their integration at all levels of education and on implementing measures to ensure equal opportunities.

14. Regarding the paragraph which refers to "a cultural shift to reshape the patterns of interaction between women and men", Argentina considers that this cannot imply that the roles of men and women are freely interchangeable without regard for the circumstances. Flexibility in gender roles cannot override the characteristics inherent to male and female persons.

15. The Argentine Republic considers that, within the framework of responsibilities shared by men and women, couples and individuals should be given the opportunity to exercise their rights as human persons and should receive health care at all stages of their life cycle.

16. The regional report must refer to the need to strengthen the family within the framework of population and development policies. (Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, chapter V, paragraph 5.1: "the basic unit of society".)

(signed)

PROFESSOR ALDO OMAR CARRERAS
UNDER-SECRETARY FOR POPULATION